

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A—wound—dressing—or~~ An ointment comprising a synthetic sulfated polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of sulfated cellulose derivatives and sulfated polyanionic polysaccharides, said synthetic sulfated polysaccharide being present in an amount sufficient to bind matrix metalloproteinases.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A—wound—dressing—or~~ An ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein the sulfated polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of sulfated hydroxyethyl cellulose, sulfated carboxymethyl cellulose and sulfated oxidized regenerated cellulose.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A—wound—dressing—or~~ An ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1 wherein the sulfated polysaccharide is sulfated oxidized regenerated cellulose.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A—wound—dressing—or~~ An ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1 wherein the sulfated polysaccharide is, selected from the group consisting of sulfated alginates, sulfated pectins and sulfated hyaluronic acid.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A—wound—dressing—or~~ An ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1 wherein the sulfated polysaccharide is a sulfated alginate.

6. (Currently Amended) An ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to ~~any~~ ~~preceeding~~ claim 1, wherein the sulfated polysaccharide comprises an average of at least 0.1 sulfate groups for each ~~saccharine~~ saccharide residue of the polysaccharide.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A—wound—dressing—or~~ An ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 6, wherein the sulfated polysaccharide comprises an average of at least 1 sulfate group for each ~~saccharine~~ saccharide residue of the polysaccharide.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A—wound—dressing—or~~ An ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein the sulfated polysaccharide has an average molecular weight in the range 25,000 - 250,000.

9. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim [1] 17, wherein the wound dressing is in the form of a woven, non-woven, sponge or knitted fabric.

10. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim [1] 17, wherein the wound dressing is in the form of a solid complex with collagen.

11. (Currently Amended) An ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide as in ~~any one of claims 4 to 7~~ claim 1 wherein the sulfated polysaccharide is soluble in water to an extent of at least 10g/l at 25°C.

12. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a sulfated polysaccharide as in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 4 to 7~~.

13. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim [12] 17 in the form of a wound dressing material or a soft tissue implant.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of treatment of medical conditions mediated by a matrix metalloproteinase wherein the treatment comprises applying to a wound the composition of claim 1.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the medical condition is a chronic wound.

16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A wound dressing comprising a synthetic sulfated polysaccharide, wherein the sulfated polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of sulfated hydroxyethyl cellulose, sulfated carboxymethyl cellulose and sulfated oxidized regenerated cellulose, said synthetic sulfated polysaccharide being present in an amount sufficient to bind matrix metalloproteinases.